
**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP
of the
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**January 25, 2011
Minutes**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP. A DIGITAL RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The Meeting of the Transportation Conformity Working Group was held at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.

In Attendance:

Abrishami, Lori
Poe, Lisa
Silverman, Sam

LACMTA
SANBAG
Terry A. Hayes Associates

SCAG

Gutierrez, Pablo
Luo, Rongsheng
Mann, Betty
Sangkapichai, Mana

Via Teleconference:

Alvarez, Grace
Behtash, Armand
Brady, Mike
Cacatian, Ben
Chang, Paul
Cooper, Keith
Crow, Jason P.
De Haan, Peter
Kennedy, Eileen
Kratovil, Aimee
Krebs, Cindy
Kuo, Ryan
Marquez, Jose
Nudd, Greg
O'Connor, Karina
Wade, Dennis
Walecka, Carla
Yoon, Andrew

RCTC
Caltrans, District 12
Caltrans Headquarters
VCAPMD
Caltrans, District 12
ICF International
ARB
VCTC
Caltrans, District 12
FHWA
OCTA
SCAG
Caltrans, District 11
U.S. EPA
U.S. EPA, Region 9
ARB
Transportation Corridor Agencies
Caltrans, District 7

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1.0 CALL TO ORDER, SELF-INTRODUCTION, AND NEW TCWG CHAIR

Lisa Poe, SANBAG, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Ms. Poe announced that Lori Abrishami, LACMTA, will be the new Chair of the TCWG. Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, and Ms. Abrishami acknowledged Ms. Poe's service as a very efficient and effective TCWG Chair over the last year.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments.

3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1 Approval Item

3.1.1 TCWG November 30, 2010 Meeting Minutes

- Joe Cassmassi, SCAQMD, was added to the teleconference participant list.

The minutes were approved with the above addition.

4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1 Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Forms

1) LA0G230

It was determined that this is not a POAQC.

2) ORA001105

It was determined that this is not a POAQC.

3) ORA030605

It was determined that this is a POAQC - Requires Qualitative Hot Spot Analysis.

4) SBD_20040210

It was determined that this is not a POAQC.

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4.2 FTIP Update

Pablo Gutierrez, SCAG, reported the following:

- 2011 FTIP received federal approval on December 14, 2010.
- 2011 FTIP Amendment #1 and Administrative Modification #2 had received all the necessary approvals.
- Staff continued working on Amendment # 3 and planned to post the amendment next week for a 15-day public review. After public review period, it will be forwarded to state and federal for approval.

4.3 RTP Update

Ryan Kuo, SCAG, reported the following:

- SCAG modeling staff began to establish the base year 2008 network.
- The RTP/Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) subregional workshops would start this month:
 - San Bernardino: Wednesday, January 26.
 - Imperial County: Thursday, January 27.
- The 2012 RTP website would be launched soon and future workshop schedule can be found on the website.

In respond to a question, Mr. Kuo stated that

- The 2011 FTIP was only used as a starting point for developing the baseline. The transportation conformity criteria will be applied to projects in the 2011 FTIP to develop the baseline.

4.4 Update re. EPA's Proposed Partial Disapproval of the SCAB PM2.5 SIP

Karina O'Conner, EPA, reported the following:

- The public comment period ended on Friday January 21. Comments were received from a private citizen, NRDC, CBE, ARB and SCAQMD.
- EPA will review the comments and draft responses to the comments. All comments and responses will be posted online and included into the final proposal. The docket number to use for "keyword" search at www.regulations.gov is: EPA-R09-OAR-2009-0366.

In response to a question, Ms. O'Connor stated the following:

- There will be no EPA publications or official actions prior to the Mid-Course Review in April. However, EPA will continue working closely with ARB to resolve the issue and will review and share ARB documents.

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Dennis Wade, ARB, reported the following:

- ARB submitted its comments on Friday (January 21) and the comments are consistent with SCAQMD's comments.

In response to a question, Mr. Wade stated the following:

- The two ARB rules (the In-use Truck and Bus Regulation and the In-use Off-road Equipment Regulation), adopted by the ARB Board in December 2010, will be submitted to EPA. However, no specific submission date at this time.

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, noted that SCAG is concerned about the timing of the resolution because SCAG is in the process of developing the 2012 RTP which requires emission budgets for conformity analysis.

4.5 EPA's Proposed Rule: Reasonable Further Progress Requirements for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard

Greg Nudd, EPA, reported the following:

- Under the current rule, certain emission reductions from sources located outside a nonattainment area could be credited toward meeting the 1997 8-Hour Ozone RFP requirement. EPA is proposing to revise the existing rule to disallow credits from outside nonattainment areas.
- The proposed rule only impacts three areas in the nation, all in the SCAG region: Coachella Valley, Ventura County, and West Mojave Desert. EPA's initial assessment indicated that the impact on Coachella Valley and Ventura County are minimal while the impact on Western Mojave Desert is more significant.
- If the proposal is finalized as currently proposed, it will be more challenging for these areas to meet the RFP requirements and may limit the extent to which regional programs can be creditable toward RFP. New RFP demonstrations will also be needed to submit for these areas.
- At this point EPA is requesting comments on the proposal. The public comment period will end on February 7 and the proposal is expected to be finalized in April.
- Under the worst case scenario, if the proposal is finalized as currently proposed, the RFP demonstration in the SIPs will become un-approvable, however, an additional set of EPA actions would be needed to propose any SIP disapproval.
- There are no implications to either the emission budgets or conformity unless any SIPs are disapproved.

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In response to questions, Ms. O'Connor stated that

- At this point, it was still too early in the process to have a specific timeline and to conclude any SIP or conformity implications of the proposal.
- The current Ventura County Ozone Early Progress Plan (EPP) emission budgets can be used for developing draft 2012 RTP.
- This proposed rule would not result in final SIP disapproval. EPA would need to issue another proposed rule relative to SIP disapproval.

Dennis Wade, ARB, reported the following:

- ARB will submit comments before February 7 and will continue working closely with EPA.

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, emphasized that SCAG is concerned about the timing issue of the process.

4.6 EPA update

Karina O'Connor, EPA, reported the following:

- Update on the Related Consent Decree: The Consent Decree has not yet been lodged for the litigation on the South Coast AQMP, but the dates should be similar to the San Joaquin Valley Control District, which has been lodged. The South Coast plan litigation involves both PM_{2.5} and ozone plan with final EPA action on the PM_{2.5} plan by 9/30/11, and final EPA action on the ozone plan by 12/15/11. The litigants are NRDC and Coalition for a Safe Environment.
- Update on EPA's Quantitative PM Hot-spot Guidance: The FR notice starting the grace period was published on December 20th and the final guidance was posted on the EPA, OTAQ web site. The grace period ends on December 20th, 2012. There is a webinar coming up on February 9th and EPA is working with ARB and Caltrans to modify the 3 day course that EPA and FHWA are developing on application of the methodology for California. The course will cover use of EMFAC, Cal3HQC and AERMOD. This webinar will provide an overview of EPA's final guidance document "Transportation Conformity Guidance for Quantitative Hot-spot Analyses in PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ Nonattainment and Maintenance Areas," released December 2010. This overview is appropriate for all those who will be involved in developing or reviewing hot-spot analyses of transportation projects in PM areas, or those who want an introduction to the material in the guidance. After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Webinar.

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Webinar: Overview of EPA's Quantitative PM Hot-Spot Guidance

Date: Wednesday, February 9, 2011

Time: 11:00am -1pm PST

- Update on AP-42: The January 2011 update to the fugitive dust paved road emission methodology was posted to the EPA TTN earlier this month. A federal register notice, similar to EMFAC or MOVES approval notices, has been drafted and that notice is expected to be signed this week and published by mid-February. That notice will start a grace period for use of the revised method, however, areas are free to use the method sooner. The revised section includes a revisions of the equation used to predict PM emissions, an extension of the applicable range of speeds down to 1 mph from the previous 10 mph, and the incorporation of a mobile monitoring methodology to dynamically characterize the silt loading or PM emissions from a roadway system. On average, it is estimated that PM10 emissions predicted by the revised equation are less than the emissions predicted by the 2006 equation. However, some silt loading and average vehicle weight conditions could result in greater estimated emissions. Some PM2.5 estimates will go up and some will go down depending up on the previous methodology used and the local data used.

4.7 ARB update

Dennis Wade, ARB, reported the following:

- ARB staff continued working on the new EMFAC and expected to release a draft of EMFAC2010 (name subjected to change) in the next 30-45 days

4.8 Air Districts Update

None

5.0 **INFORMATION SHARING**

Aimee Kratovil, FHWA, reported the restructuring of the FHWA LA Metro Office:

- Previously there were four positions in the LA Metro office: a Senior Transportation Engineer, an Administrative Program Assistant, an ITS Engineer, and a Transportation Planner.
- Michael Morris will resume the Transportation Planner position from Michelle Noch. He has been with FHWA since August 2006 and his most recent position was as a Transportation Planner in the California Division Office in Sacramento.
- Six more positions are being added to the LA Metro Office including an Associate Division Administrator, two Senior Transportation Engineers, a

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Transportation Engineer, a Border Specialist, and a Finance Specialist. All these positions have been filled with the exception of the Finance Specialist position which is anticipated to be filled soon. It is also anticipated that these staffs will report to duty to the LA Metro Office by this Spring and the California Division will make a more formal announcement soon.

- Ms. Kartovil will resume responsibility of project level conformity review from Stew Sonnenberg. She requested that Mr. Sonnenberg email be removed from mailing list.

Mike Brady, Caltrans Headquarters, stated that the next Statewide Conformity Working Group Meeting will be held on March 10, from 9am-12pm. Mr. Brady requested that proposed agenda items, if any, be sent to him.

6.0 **ADJOURNMENT**

Lori Abrishami adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

The next Transportation Conformity Working Group meeting will be held on February 22, 2011 at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.